



607.10 Handcuffing and Restraining

Number Series: 600 - Corrections Division

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607.10-1 Policy

- I. Instruments of restraint shall be used only as a precaution against escape during transfer, for medical reasons by direction of the health care staff, and as prevention against self-injury, injury to others or property damage or such other occasion as may be approved by the Shift Supervisor, or higher authority. Restraints will be applied for only the amount of time absolutely necessary, and shall never be applied as punishment.
- II. When an inmate is placed in four/five-point restraint, advance approval must be obtained from the Shift Supervisor or higher authority. Subsequently, the health care staff shall be notified to assess the inmate's medical and mental health condition, and to advise whether, on the basis of serious danger to self or others, the inmate should be placed in medical housing for emergency involuntary treatment with sedation and/or other medical management, as appropriate. If the inmate is not transferred to medical housing and is restrained in a four/five-point position, the following minimum procedures shall be followed:
 - A. Direct, continuous, visual observation shall be provided while waiting for health care staff assessment of the inmate.
 - B. Subsequent visual observation shall occur at least every 15 minutes.
 - C. The Shift Supervisor or higher authority shall review a subject's continued retention in restraints at least once each hour.

607.10-2 General Procedures

- I. Handcuffs and leg irons shall be utilized when transporting inmate(s) from one facility to another (unless physically impossible i.e., amputee).
 - A. Female inmates who are pregnant will be cuffed in front and not placed in leg irons.
 - B. Inmates with physical handicaps will be handcuffed at the discretion of the Transport Deputy after consideration has been given as to the nature of the offense and the escape risk of the prisoner being transported. Inmate's handicapped because of a loss of one arm shall be restrained by use of handcuffs and a waist chain.
 - C. Sentenced Inmate workers being transported to or from a work detail will not be placed in restraints.
 - D. Inmates having received the death sentence and death row inmates shall be secured with handcuffs, waist chain, and leg irons, and a handcuff cover. Violent inmates or

- inmates that have displayed a history of violence shall be restrained in the same fashion.
- E. Male and female inmates shall not be restrained together.
 - F. Juvenile inmates shall not be restrained to adult inmates.
 - G. Inmates shall never be restrained to Deputies or staff members.
 - H. Inmates may be secured to stationary objects. Inmates shall not be physically secured to stationary objects within moving vehicles unless, in the judgment of the Transport Deputy, the inmate presents a danger to self or others.
 - I. When transporting multiple inmates, control can be enhanced by interlocking the arms of inmates prior to handcuffing. An alternative method of enhancing security is to shackle the left ankle on one inmate to the right ankle of another inmate.
- II. Deputies shall be aware of the background of inmate(s) being transported in order to select the most appropriate restraining device(s).
 - III. Transport Deputies shall personally apply restraining devices to inmate(s) being transported. Restraining devices shall be checked and re-checked by the Transport Deputy.
 - IV. Deputies are most vulnerable to assault during the restraining and un-restraining processes. The restraining and un-restraining process affords inmates an excellent opportunity to attempt escape.
 - V. Transport Deputies are responsible for the safety and welfare of the inmate(s) being transported.

607.10-3 Handcuffs

- I. Handcuffs shall only be employed to the degree of force necessary to restrain inmates, prevent escapes, and to protect the Deputy and the public from personal injury, death, or property damage from the actions of inmates.
- II. Leg irons may be necessary to use in lieu of handcuffs when the inmate is too large for handcuffs to be applied.
- III. Application:
 - A. When placing handcuffs on a single inmate, the palms of the inmate's hands should be facing away from each other. The handcuff should be snug against the inmate's wrists, but not so tight as to stop the blood circulation or injure the wrist. The handcuff shall be double-locked.
 - B. Non-violent inmates shall normally be handcuffed with hands to the front. Violent inmates shall normally be handcuffed with hands behind the back. Pregnant female inmates will be handcuffed in front.
- IV. Use only HCSO approved handcuffs. Never use iron claws, chain twister thumb cuffs, wire ties, ropes, or anything similar to these devices. Hinge-type handcuffs are authorized by HCSO for deputies' use while on duty. The purchase of hinge-type handcuffs will be at the discretion of each deputy and will be paid for by the deputy.

607.10-4 Leg Irons

- I. Leg irons are applied to reduce the potential danger to Deputies from being kicked.
- II. Leg irons will be applied on all inmates being transported from the facility. Pregnant female inmates will not be placed in leg irons.
- III. Application:

- A. One finger width space shall be between the leg iron and the inmate's ankle.
- B. Leg irons should be placed over pant legs.
- C. Leg irons shall be double locked.
- IV. Only HCSO issued leg irons are authorized for use.

607.10-5 Waist Chains

- I. Waist chains can be applied to further neutralize the inmate's use of hand or arms by limiting the range of hand and arm motion.
- II. Application of waist chain without belt loops:
 - A. Inmates wearing trousers without belt loops (to secure the waist chain) can often slide the waist chain below the waist or over the chest and head.
 - B. An alternative method of application of the waist chain on inmates wearing trousers without belt loops, yet wearing leg irons, is to pass one end of the waist chain under the crotch and around one leg and securing both ends to the handcuffs from the front. Inmates thus restrained have a somewhat greater range of hand and arm motion than with the waist chain through the belt loops, however there is no way for the waist chain to be removed from the inmate's body. The torso inhibits the upward release while the leg irons prevent the downward release.

607.10-6 Restraint Accessories

The facility utilizes two accessories to enhance handcuffing security.

- I. The Hand Cuff Cover, commonly known as the "Black Box," may be used when transporting violent or escape risk inmates.
 - A. The "Black Box" is a molded hinged plastic case designed to prevent tampering with the unlocking mechanism.
 - B. Inmates are handcuffed and waist chained according to established policy.
 - C. Inmates are further secured by the "Black Box" encasing the swivel chain and locking device of the handcuffs.
 - D. The waist chain is secured to the "Black Box."

607.10-7 Stationary Restraint

The following restraint procedures have been reviewed and are in accordance with guidelines approved by the contract health care provider.

- I. Violent, assaultive, or uncooperative inmates may require restraint to a stationary object in order to curtail disruptive behavior, and to ensure the safety of the inmate, staff and property. Restraint may simply require securing one limb to the leg of a bunk, to more extensive techniques of securing all four (4) limbs to a bunk (four point restraining). Four-point restraining should be used only when other types of restraining have proven to be ineffective.
- II. No inmate shall be secured to a stationary object within a cell containing other inmates. All occupants of the cell must be removed.

- III. Prior to placing an inmate in stationary restraints, approval shall be obtained from the Shift Supervisor or higher authority and subsequent assessment shall be performed by health care staff.
- IV. Direct, continuous, visual observation shall be provided while waiting for assessment by health care staff. Subsequent visual observation shall be made at least every 15 minutes.
- V. Restraints should be applied securely enough to restrict the inmate's movements, but not so tight as to hinder circulation or cause nerve impairment or skin damage.
- VI. An Incident Report shall be completed each time an inmate is restrained in such a manner, a copy of which shall be forwarded to the Jail Administrator, or designee. An Observation Log shall be maintained to record security staff and contract health care staff welfare checks and comments.
- VII. A Response to Resistance Report shall be completed each time an inmate physically resists the application of the restraints and force must be used to secure the inmate. A copy of the report shall be forwarded to the Jail Administrator, or designee. If the inmate passively submits to the restraint, to include four-point restraints, no Assailant Control Report is required.
- VIII. See **Section 607.20**, for procedures on the use of inmate management chairs which may be used in lieu of "four point restraints."

REFERENCES

State/Federal Regulations:
Florida Model Jail Standards

FCAC:
N/A

PREA:
N/A

Forms:
Incident Report
Observation Log
Assailant Control Report

Other Policy/ Procedure References:
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607.20 Inmate Management Chair